Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

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FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6210

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: EAGR, NL

SUBJECT: HR SUGAR HEARINGS

REF: STATE 147178

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS IN PARA 3 REFTEL FOLLOW:

A)DUTCH SUGAR MILLS ARE FULLY INTEGRATED AND HANDLE
ALL PROCESSES BETWEEN SUGAR BEET AND REFINED SUGAR,
ERGO, NO RAW SUGAR PRODUCED HERE. EXMILL PRICE OF
RETAIL PACKED REFINED SUGAR IS 21 CENTS/LB.
B) 29 CENTS/LB.

C) TO EC COUNTRIES: 19.7 CENTS/LB TO THIRD COUNTRIES: 16.4 CENTS/LB WEIGHTED AVERAGE: 16.7 CENTS/LB

D) NEITHER OFFICIAL NOR INDUSTRY PROJECTIONS AVAILABLE. BALIPARK GUESS IS PRODUCTION RANGE BETWEEN 750,000 AND ONE MILLION MT/YEAR DURING PERIOD. DUTCH EXPORTS TO THIRD COUNTRIES PROBABLY NEGLIGIBLE. NO CSUGAR WILL BE PRODUCED. PRODUCTION WILL COVER DOMESTIC NEEDS PLUS SMALL TO MODERATE EXPORTS TO NEIGHBORING EC COUNTRIES.

E) THERE ARE TWO FIRMS PRODUCING SUGAR IN NETHERLANDS. ONE SAYS THEY WILL INVEST 25 MILLION GUILDERS (10.4 MILLION DOLLARS) IN 1975/76 AND 1976/77 TO INCREASE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DAILY BEET PROCESSING CAPACITY BY 1,000 MT TO

24,500 MT. SUGAR PRODUCTION WOULD INCREASE FROM ABOUT 7.5 TO 7.8 MILLION POUNDS PER DAY. SAME FIRM INVESTED 55 MILLION GUILDERS IN 1974/75 TO PERMIT PROCESSING OF BEETS FROM INCREASED AREA IN 1975/76 (45,000 HA IN 1974/75 AND 52,000 HA IN 1975/76. TOTAL DUTCH BEET AREA 130,000 IN 1975/76.)

INFORMATION RE EXPANSION PLANS OF OTHER FIRM WILL BE SENT WHEN (AND IF) RECEIVED.

F) DUTCH PER CAPITA CONSUMPTION HAS BEEN STABLE AROUND 45 KG. AND IS NOT EXPECTED TO INCREASE SIGNIFICANTLY IN COMING FIVE YARS. DUTCH POPULATION (13.6 MILLION BEGINNING 1975) INCREASING BETWEEN 0.4 AND 0.7 PERCENT/ YEAR.

G) NO. EC MAY ISSUE REGULATION PERMITTING SUGAR EXPORTERS TO UNDERTAKE LONG TERM COMMITMENTS.
H) NO NATIONAL SUGAR POLICY EXCEPT MINIMUM RPT MINIMUM RETAIL PRICE TO PROTECT SMALL RETAILERS FROM CHAINSTORE PRICECUTTING.
GOULD

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